

The

HISTORIAN

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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

AUGUST 1997

AUGUST HAPPENINGS

The August luncheon meeting of the Hancock County Historical Society will be held at noon on Thursday, August 21 at the Kate Lobrano House, 108 Cue Street, Bay Saint Louis.

Our speaker will be Marco J. Giardino, PhD, a research scientist in the Earth System Science Office at NASA's Stennis Space Center where he specializes in the application of remote sensing techniques to archaeology. He has recently conducted work at St. Stanislaus' Back School (Rip University), Gainesville and Logtown and has excavated sites in Italy, France and southeastern United States. Dr. Giardino has long been a friend and contributor to our Society.

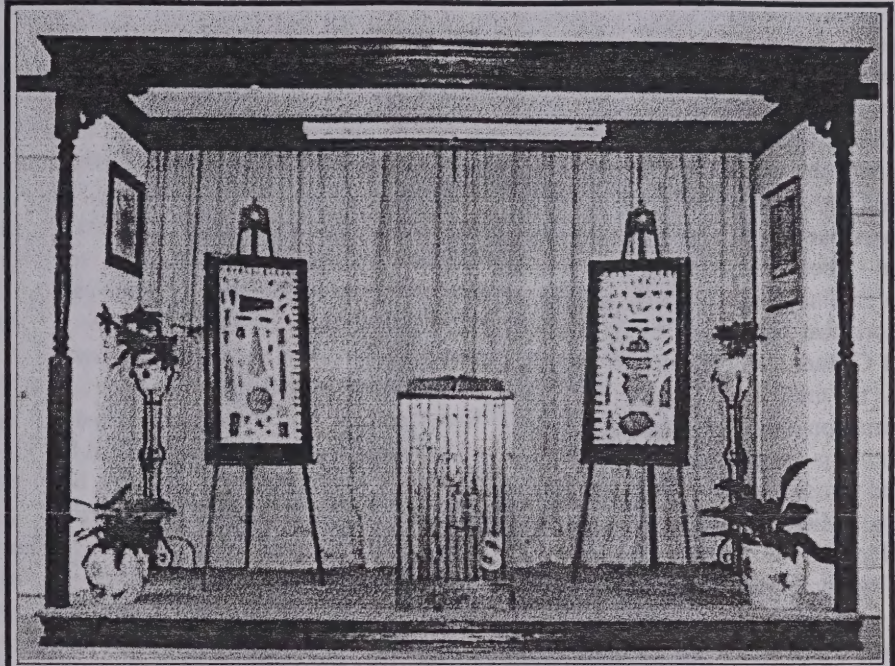
Please call 467-4090 for luncheon reservations at \$6.00. It is advisable to call early to assure your reservation as we expect this to be a very popular subject. As always, non-members or non-diners are also welcome.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with great appreciation that I acknowledge the numerous donations made recently to the Historical Society. The generosity of Hancock Countians, though legendary, is exceeding even its own reputation. We are very grateful to all who have shared their treasures and talents with us.

The photograph at the top of this page shows two beautiful display cases built for us by member Emile Stieffel. They

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The Walden Poverty Point collection on display at the Historical Society

MONTE WALDEN COLLECTION DONATED TO H.C.H.S.

Mrs. Monique Walden Chaix has donated an extensive collection of Native American artifacts to the Hancock County Historical Society in memory of her late father, William Monte Walden. Mr. Walden, though a man of the future who was employed in designing the space shuttle tanks at Stennis Space Center, spent many years deeply involved in archaeology.

He was born in Olathe, Kansas in 1918 in a house which had a sod roof for insulation against the elements. His mother was an artist and teacher who taught Native American children so he grew up

with knowledge of their culture.

In 1964 he married Pat, a T Sligli' Native American whose family heirlooms formed the beginning of their collections. Over the years he did research in Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Florida, Tennessee and Alabama in addition to numerous Mississippi sites.

Mrs. Walden reports that Mr. Walden was so excited after his first day at the Claiborne site that only his obligations at Stennis could drag him away.

Most of the articles in this collection are from Hancock County although there are a number of ceremonial pieces traded from other locations. Some pieces are thought to have come from as far away as Yellowstone National Park.

POVERTY POINT, A PLACE AND A CULTURE

Poverty Point culture is a prehistoric manifestation in southern United States. It was preceded by Archaic cultures and was followed by the well-known ceramic-agricultural sequence of the Lower Mississippi Valley.

The economy was based largely on hunting, fishing, fowling, and gathering. It is also possible that horticulture was introduced since food supplies were adequate to support stable villages, regional centers, and a great ceremonial center at Poverty Point itself.

Poverty Point, the prime site for the Poverty Point culture, is located in West Carroll Parish, Louisiana between the Mississippi River and the Arkansas River. These and other smaller rivers were cardinal factors in the vast trade network that characterized the Poverty Point Culture.

At the time of the Poverty Point Site construction it was the largest earthwork in both Americas and its satellite sites extend across Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama and Florida.

Two prominent Poverty Point sites have been explored in Hancock County: Claiborne and Cedarland Plantation.

Radiocarbon dates for the culture have been established from 2040 B.C. Samples taken at the southwest corner of the Claiborne Site by Charles Satchfield of the Mississippi Archaeological Society were dated at approximately 650 B.C.

Claiborne and Cedarland sites are immediately contiguous on a terrace formation on the eastern margin of the Pearl River, the first high ground upstream from the river mouth and within sight of the Gulf of Mexico.

The sites are situated between a series of gullies. The Claiborne site lies immediately south of the Cedarland midden and is separated from it by a large gully extending from the bluff edge. Despite the close proximity of the two sites, the timber cover and dense undergrowth obscured the larger Claiborne midden and it remained undiscovered

until 1967 when clearing was initiated for a new port and harbor facility in the area. It is thought that both villages were semicircular at the time of occupation, open-ended toward the estuary.

Amateur archaeologists active in the area made important collections and cooperated with efforts to salvage as much data as possible before destruction of the site. Among them were Gary Kraus of Metairie and Monte Walden of Slidell, Louisiana.

Claiborne is the largest Poverty Point coastal site and is presumed to be a regional center. It consists of a large, stratified, horseshoe-shaped midden composed of black earth midden and shells of the brackish water clam *Rangia Cuneata*, with some oyster shells. It has an outside diameter of approximately 660 feet and inside diameter of 460 feet. Associated with the semicircle, due east of its center at a distance of 1,060 feet, was a small conical sand mound. It was about 75 feet in diameter at the base and four feet high; unfortunately, it was destroyed before test excavations could be made. A careful search of the area before and after bulldozing disclosed only a few scattered shell fragments.

Virtually the entire Poverty Point artifactual assemblage is represented at the Claiborne Site. The quantity and variety of artifacts eclipse all the other site collections in the coastal area, leading to the conclusion that Claiborne was a regional center participating fully in the Poverty Point widespread trade network and cultural organization, both up the Mississippi Valley and along the Gulf Coast.

Claiborne has produced more fiber-tempered shards than any other site in the coastal area. Approximately 200 shards have been found at the site, of which 119 were available for study.

The Walden collection came primarily from the excavations at the south end of the Claiborne semicircle. However, an entire fiber-tempered disc base, 14 cm. in diameter and with hemiconical punctations on the base and lower body was found by Mr. Walden at the north end of the midden.

Three beautifully made points, 11 to

12.5 cm. in length, were found by Walden in a group at the south end of the Claiborne midden, two of gray northern flint and the third of white, almost chalky, flint, all exotic materials. These may be ceremonial objects from the Poverty Point Site where similar caches have been found. Many materials not native to the area were apparently brought to the site and finished objects were then manufactured there.

Vessel fragments were interspersed throughout the midden. The original collection contained 117 fragments, of which 20 were rim shards. Several large pieces are included in the Historical Society's display cases.

The Cedarland Site is a slightly smaller stratified oyster shell and earth midden, also semicircular in plan. The outer diameter of the midden is approximately 540 feet while the inner diameter is about 300 feet.

Prior to the discovery of the site, shell had been taken from a borrow pit in the midden for local road construction.

The lower layer of the midden consists primarily of oyster shell with bones of small animals, deer, bear, fish and waterfowl, and with charcoal and artifacts intermixed. Remnants of small clay-lined hearths are scattered throughout the shell. The upper level is composed of black organic sand with charcoal, animal bones, and other artifacts.

A changing selection from Mr. Walden's collection will be on display at the Loblano House permanently. The two cases described earlier in this article will hold approximately half the items presently held by the Society.

Mrs. Pat Walden and her daughter, Mrs. Monique Chaix will be present at our luncheon meeting on August 21st and perhaps will answer questions you may have. If you have archaeological objects of curiosity bring them to our "Show-N-Tell". Maybe they, or Dr. Giardino, can identify them.

Charles H. Gray

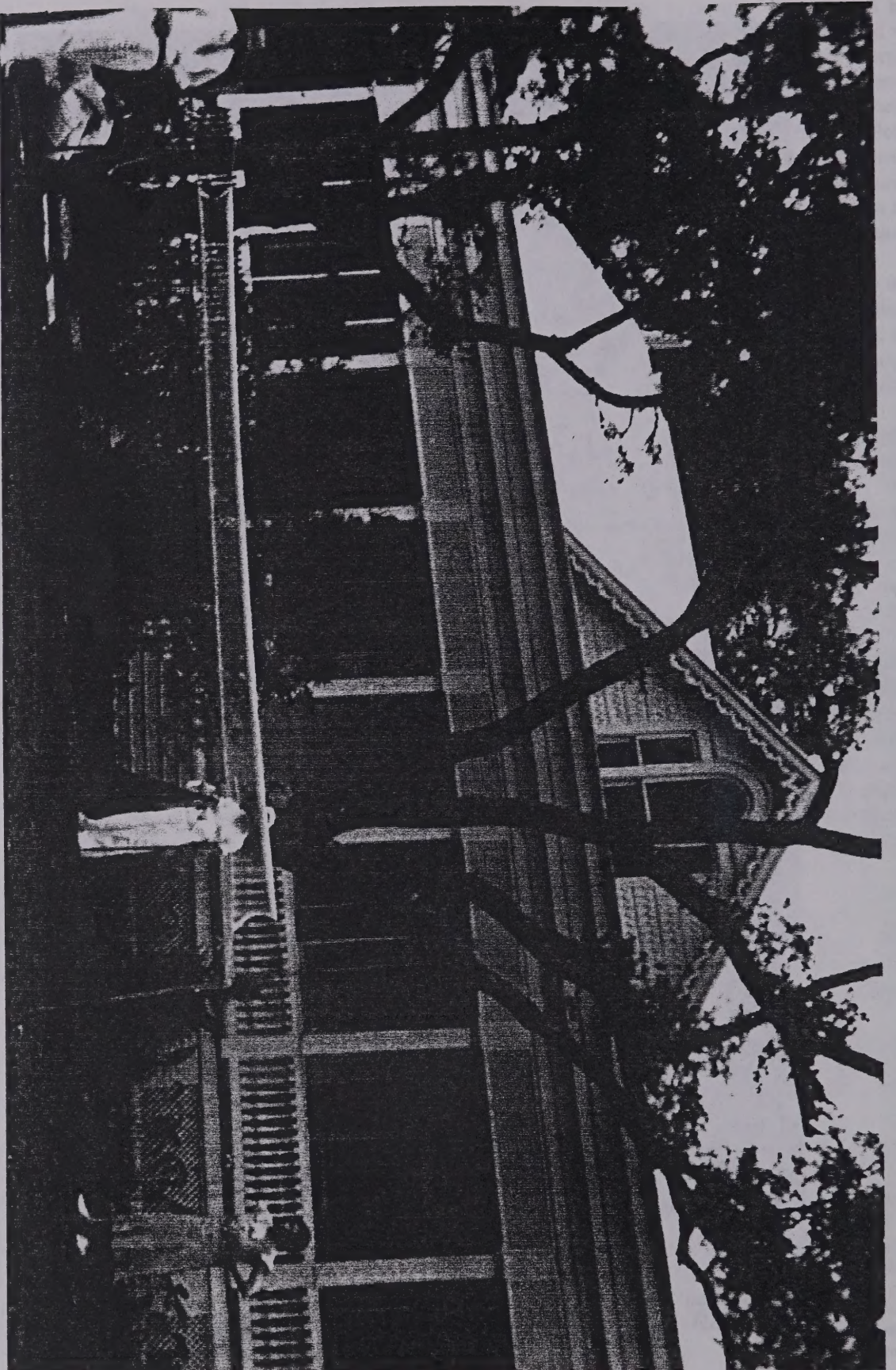
The above article is taken primarily from *Geoscience and Man, The Poverty Point Culture and Bulletin No. 12, Southeastern Archaeological Conference*, both by Clarence H. Webb of the School of Geoscience, Louisiana State University. Both are in the HCHS library and are available to the public.



Lobrano House door panel

This beautiful Stained Glass Rose Panel was designed and made by Richie Zitzmann
Donated to the Hancock County Historical Society by Barbara and Richie Zitzmann
In memory of her son,

Marvin Theodore Barlow Born 10/3/68 Died 2/21/72



This beachfront house photograph has been submitted by Ninette P. Webster. "Blue Shutters", the home of Mr. & Mrs. Walter G. Cleveland (Mrs. Webster's parents) was located at 123 North Beach Blvd., Waveland. The photograph was taken circa 1934.

President from page 1

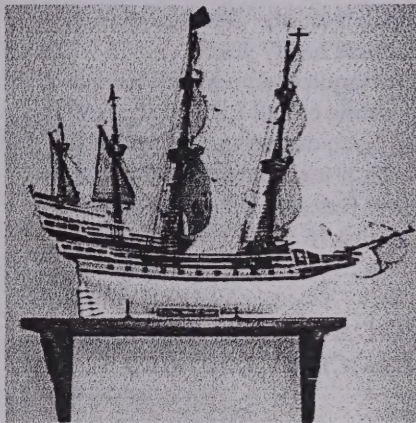
are designed to serve either as wall-hanging shadow boxes or tabletop display cases suitable for transportation to schools or meetings to show the collection. These cases will hang in the Lobrano House parlor, but Emile has also built a beautiful pair of easels for them. Emile's retirement woodworking hobby has served us well.

Additionally he has crafted our lectern which is used at nearly every meeting, pedestals for our coffee urns and his latest contribution is the pair of bracket shelves for the ship models shown in the next column. Once more, Emile, "Good job, well done". Thank you for these beautiful woodwork gifts.

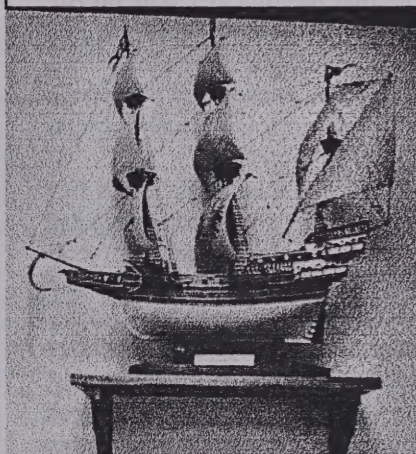


Peter Faucetta played trombone with the Bay St. Louis Municipal Band in the 1920s and 1930s. The above trombone, case, hat and photograph were donated to the Historical Society by Society member Shirley Miller Tarzetti of Kiln who is a nece-in-law of Mr. Faucetta. Mr. Faucetta is shown wearing the band hat. Another photograph (right) shows the band in front of the old City Hall on 2nd Street circa 1920s. Ellis Cuevas, Editor and Publisher of the *Sea Coast Echo*, conducted an inquiry and identified all the members shown in the photo.

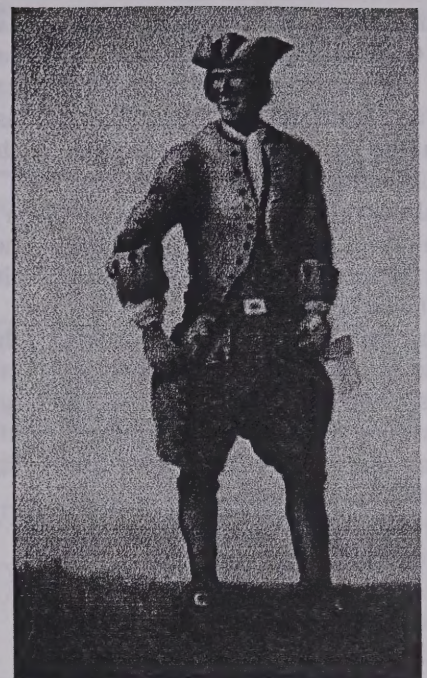
Dr. Pat Walden has presented us with two beautiful models of late 16th century galleons, one English, the other Spanish. These are detailed and accurate models and will no doubt be very popular displays for tours of Lobrano House.



English Galleon



Spanish Galleon



Bienville at the Bay of Saint Louis

An oil on canvas of *Bienville at the Bay of Saint Louis* was painted for the Historical Society by our noted member from Jackson, Mary Lee, MD. In addition to her accomplishments as an artist and a doctor, she is married to Dan Lee, Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court. But perhaps her greatest notoriety comes from the fact that she is the sister of yours truly.....

Charles Gray.

The Bay Saint Louis Municipal Band



PRESERVATION ORDINANCE COMMITTEE FORMED

The Mayor and City Council have appointed an advisory committee to draft an ordinance for the council's approval that will help protect the existing historical structures in Bay Saint Louis and serve as a guide for new structures being built.

Bay Saint Louis has 578 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, primarily along the beachfront but reaching two to three blocks inward in some places. Also, there are a few isolated structures deemed to be of great importance that were included on the list although they are not within a designated "historical district".

Protecting the integrity of our architectural heritage is important to the future of the city. Please support your Council when this issue comes up for approval. Appointees to the committee so far are, Charles Gray, Carter Church, Meg Hilliker, Evie Gordon, Jeff Nancarvis, Lee Purcell, Gloria Payne, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Dorothy McLemore, Roy Dedeaux and Alexander Brown. Two additional members remain to be appointed.

OUR LADY OF THE GULF CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church is 150 years old. Rev. Louis Stanislaus Buteux, the first pastor of the parish arrived in Bay Saint Louis on August 8, 1847 and on August 19, 1849 Bishop John Chance, first bishop of Natchez, blessed the new church building.

Father Buteux felt strongly the need for education of the local children and persuaded the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in France to open a boarding school for boys in Bay Saint Louis. St. Stanislaus College was named for Father Buteux's patron saint. Next he successfully prevailed on the Sisters of St. Joseph of Bourg, France to staff a school for girls to be called Saint Joseph's Academy.

The beautiful gothic-type cathedral

burned on November 16, 1907. The tower clock struck 7:30 that morning and slowly fell into the burning debris as the echoes of its last chime faded in the distance.

On December 13, 1908, a little over a year later, mass was celebrated in the new brick building. Services have continued there for 89 years.

The sesquicentennial celebration of the founding of Our Lady of the Gulf is taking place during the month of August with a reenactment of the arrival of Father Buteux to be held on Saturday, August 16 at the church.

LONG BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDED

The Long Beach Historical Society held its first meeting at 7 p.m. on August 11 in Long Beach. About 100 people attended the gala affair. Mrs. Libby Aydelott, president of the Federation of Mississippi Historical Societies addressed the group.

Mary Ellen Alexander is the first president of the Long Beach group and Donald Danna, who is their finance officer, is president-elect of the Mississippi Historical Society. Also attending were John Ludenbacker, president of the Pass Christian Historical Society, Charles Gray, president of the Hancock County Historical Society and Karen Flores, Director of the Kate Lobrano House, Bay Saint Louis.

Long Beach has just celebrated its 92nd birthday as an incorporated city, though its history parallels its neighboring cities in dating its existence to the eighteenth century explorers.

Mrs. Alexander, author of the delightful book, *Rosalie and Radishes* reminds us that Long Beach was once the radish capital of the country. The industry began in 1884 and grew at an explosive rate attracting investors from the north in astonishing numbers. The days of the truck farms has long passed and the farms are now subdivisions, but the descendants of those early residents are now proudly claiming their rightful place in history.

New members

Donald Munson, Jr. Waconia, MN.
Arvine Garcia, Bay Saint Louis, MS
Herbert O. Bailey, Alexandria, VA
Geraldine Foxworth, Pearlinton, MS
Mrs. John L. Mayo, Pensacola, FL
Paul LaCoste, Madison, MS
Rick George, Bay Saint Louis, MS
Marguerite Fayard, Waveland, MS
Bob Daniels, Gulfport, MS
Dolores Faas, Diamondhead
Richard Faas, Diamondhead
Patrick McGinity, Thibodaux, LA

BOOK DONATED

Sally James of the Pass Christian Public Library has sent us a copy of the Ceremony of Consecration of The Most Reverend Joseph Oliver Bowers, Bishop of Accra, West Africa. He was educated at Saint Augustine, the first seminary for black priests in America. Bishop Bowers was the first bishop of African descent to serve the Gold Coast of British West Africa.

LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

Monday	8 a.m.
through	to
Friday	4 p.m.

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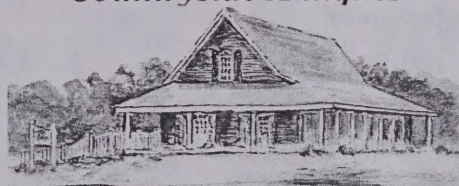
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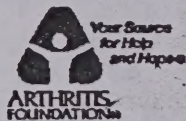
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